

IDLING – It's Just Fuelish

Promote savings and cleaner air by advocating for idle reduction.

Vehicles that unnecessarily idle waste valuable resources, generate greenhouse gases, and create unhealthy conditions in and around buildings, along the roadways and throughout the environment as a whole. Drivers can demonstrate fiscal responsibility and clean the environment just by turning the key when their vehicles idle for more than 30 seconds.

Diesel truck engines burn roughly a gallon of fuel per hour when idling. The EPA estimates over 1 billion gallons of fuel are wasted each year due to this practice. In addition to wasting fuel, idling adds to air and noise pollution, plus driver health and safety concerns.



Idling passenger vehicles also add to the problem. Ecological stewardship requires the ability to adapt ... idle reduction and [ecodriving](#) are two ways to make proactive, simple changes to the way you operate your vehicle that help improve our environment.



Idling = ZERO miles per gallon

IT'S A FACT ... Idling a vehicle for 2 minutes uses about the same amount of gas as driving one mile.



HEALTH, WELFARE & ECONOMICS

Exposure to exhaust can cause health problems. When idling, unhealthy fumes - both diesel and gasoline - can accumulate inside vehicles, along roadways, around sidewalks and also inside nearby buildings. Exhaust fumes pose a health risk to drivers and the community at large. They exacerbate asthma and existing allergies, damage lungs, cause respiratory problems and stress the heart. Long-term exposure to exhaust is thought to increase the risk of lung cancer. Vehicle exhaust also increases CO₂ levels adding to global warming concerns. Moreover, idling wastes fuel and financial resources. For all these reasons idling must be kept to a minimum.

Good information on idle reduction programs and policies is available on the Internet. Visit the DEQ Mobile Source webpage at www.michigan.gov/deqair or go to EPA's Smartway www.epa.gov/SmartwayLogistics/index.htm or Clean School Bus USA <http://epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/> websites for ways to get on board.

PROTECT YOUR HEALTH

Get free e-mail/text message notifications via the Michigan EnviroFlash program. Enrollment is quick and easy! Simply select the **EnviroFlash** logo @ www.michigan.gov/deqair for details. Choose the **MIair** icon for air quality forecasts, real-time data, animated maps, tips, and more.

When people know the Air Quality Index forecast, they can make choices to reduce their exposure to air pollution and reduce emissions that create it.



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... because MIair is your air*